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**NEW METHODS OF DEVELOPMENT
OF GAS HYDRATE FIELDS
PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES**



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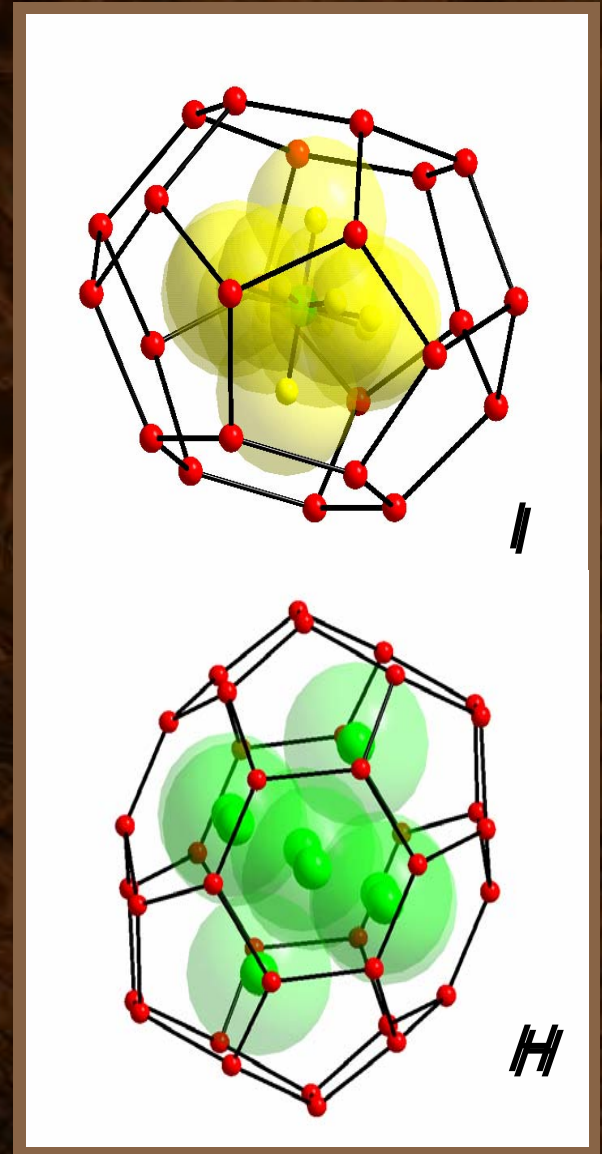
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Gas hydrates are crystalline compounds (clatrates) of definite structure.

Gas hydrates are methastable minerals formed by combining water and gas molecules.



Components of natural gas (CH₄, C₂H₆, C₃H₈, i-C₄H₁₀, CO₂, N₂, H₂S) form both individual and mixed hydrates.



The possibility of existence of gas hydrate reservoirs in nature conditions was shown in experiments, made in Russia and registered as a scientific discovery in **1969** by **Iu.F.Makogon, F.A.Trebin, V.G.Vasiliev, N.V.Chersky, A.A.Trofimuk.**



1. Introduction

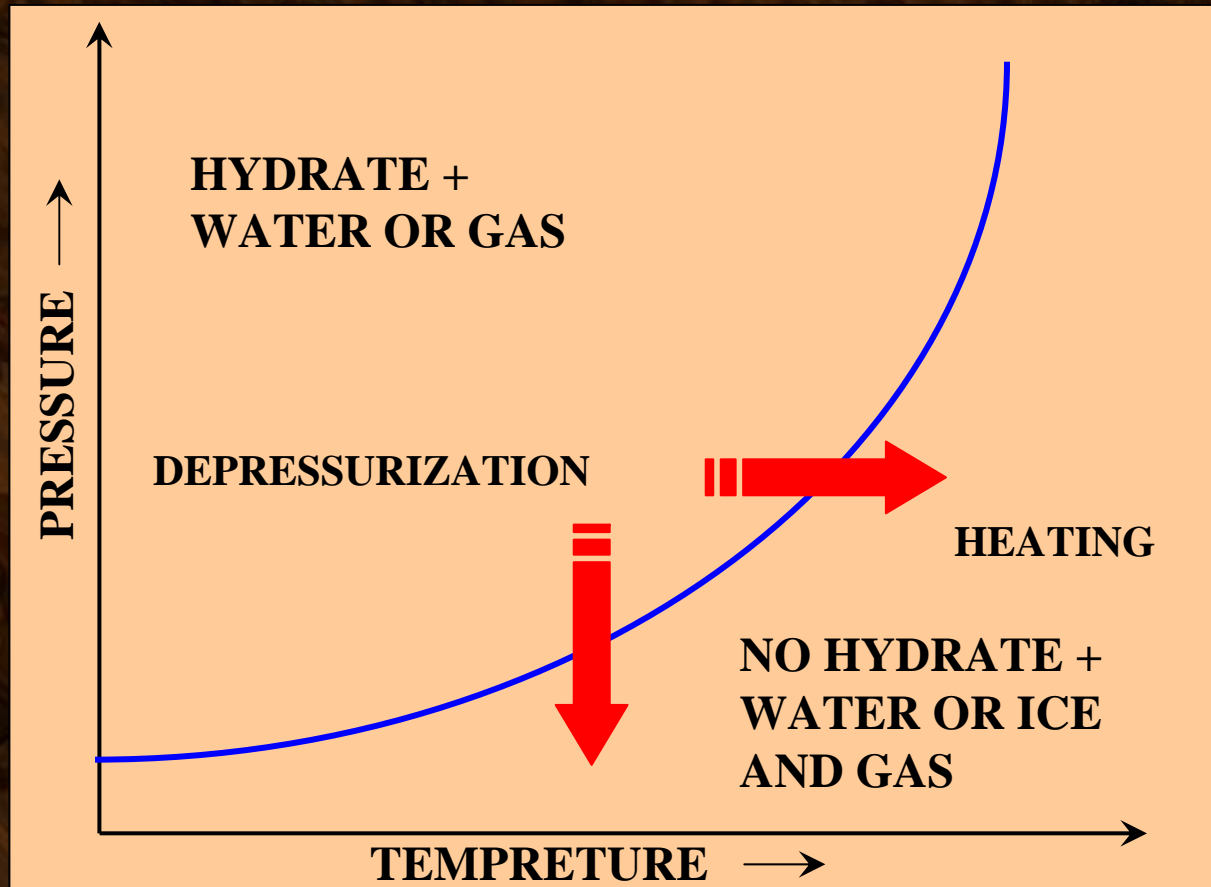


Worldwide gas reserves in hydrate state exceed **$16 \cdot 10^{12}$ T.O.E.** About **98%** are concentrated offshore. Only **2%** (**300 trln.m^3**) of the reserves are onshore.



2. Possible Methods of Development of Gas Hydrate Fields

Hydrate equilibrium curve



2. Possible Methods of Development of Gas Hydrate Fields

In 1970 the existence of gas hydrate fields and the possibility of their industrial development was confirmed by beginning of development of the first Messoyakha field.



2. Possible Methods of Development of Gas Hydrate Fields

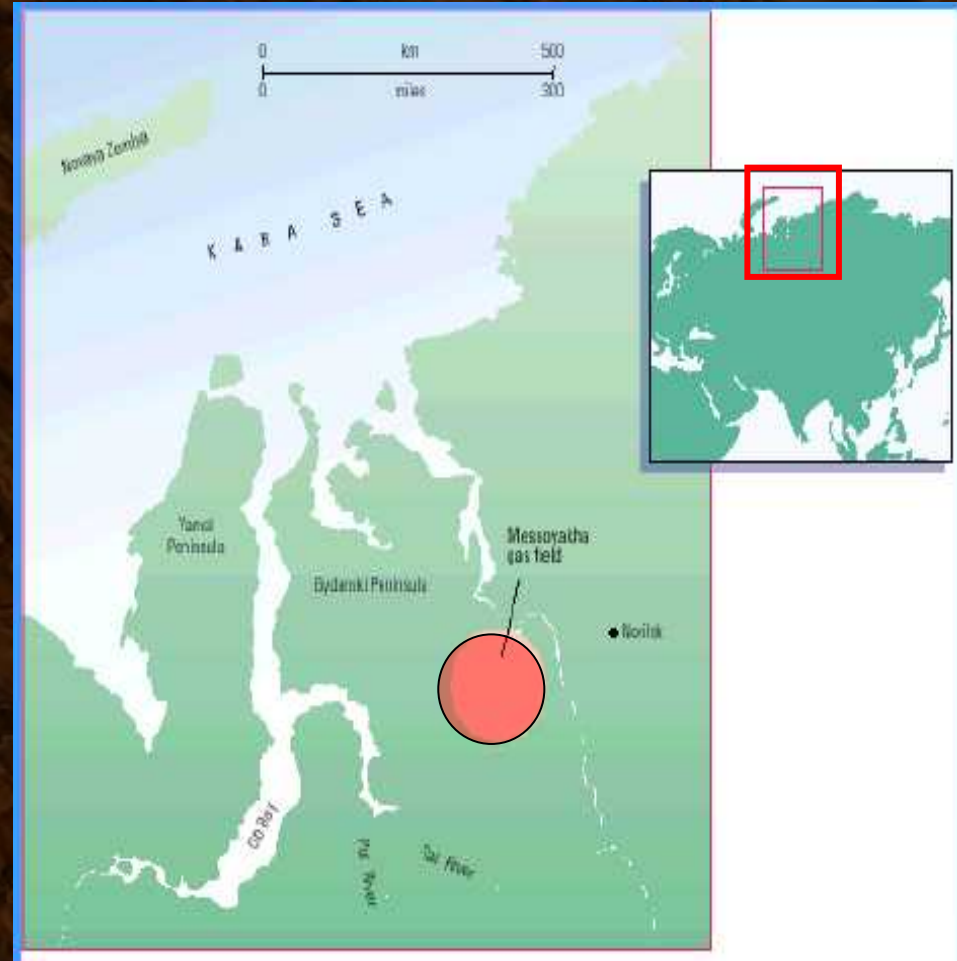
Messoyakha field (1970 г.)

The depth of deposit is about **850 m**.

The depth of permafrost rocks within the deposit comprises **420-480 m**.

The initial reservoir pressure is **7.8 MPa**.

Estimated hydrate saturation ranges from **20 to 40 %**.



2. Possible Methods of Development of Gas Hydrate Fields

Messoyakha gas-and-gas hydrate field

The temperature at the cap of the deposit in its dome part is **8°C** and at the bottom - **12°C**.

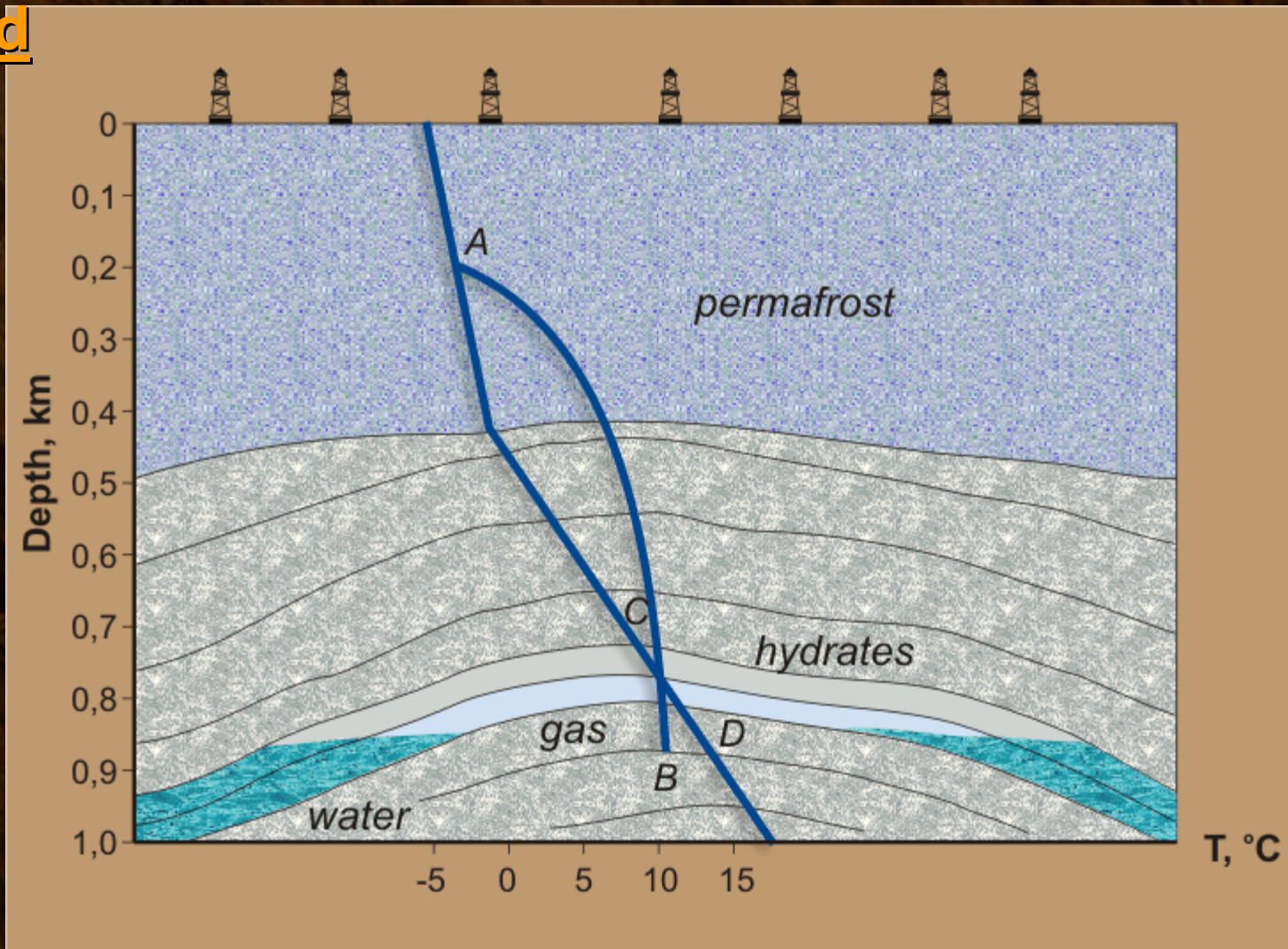
Geothermal gradient in the range of permafrost rocks is **1°C per 100 m**, in underfrost layer of rocks is **3.4°C per 100 m**.

Equilibrium temperature is about **10°C**.



2. Possible Methods of Development of Gas Hydrate Fields

Messoyakha gas-and-gas hydrate field



2. Possible Methods of Development of Gas Hydrate Fields

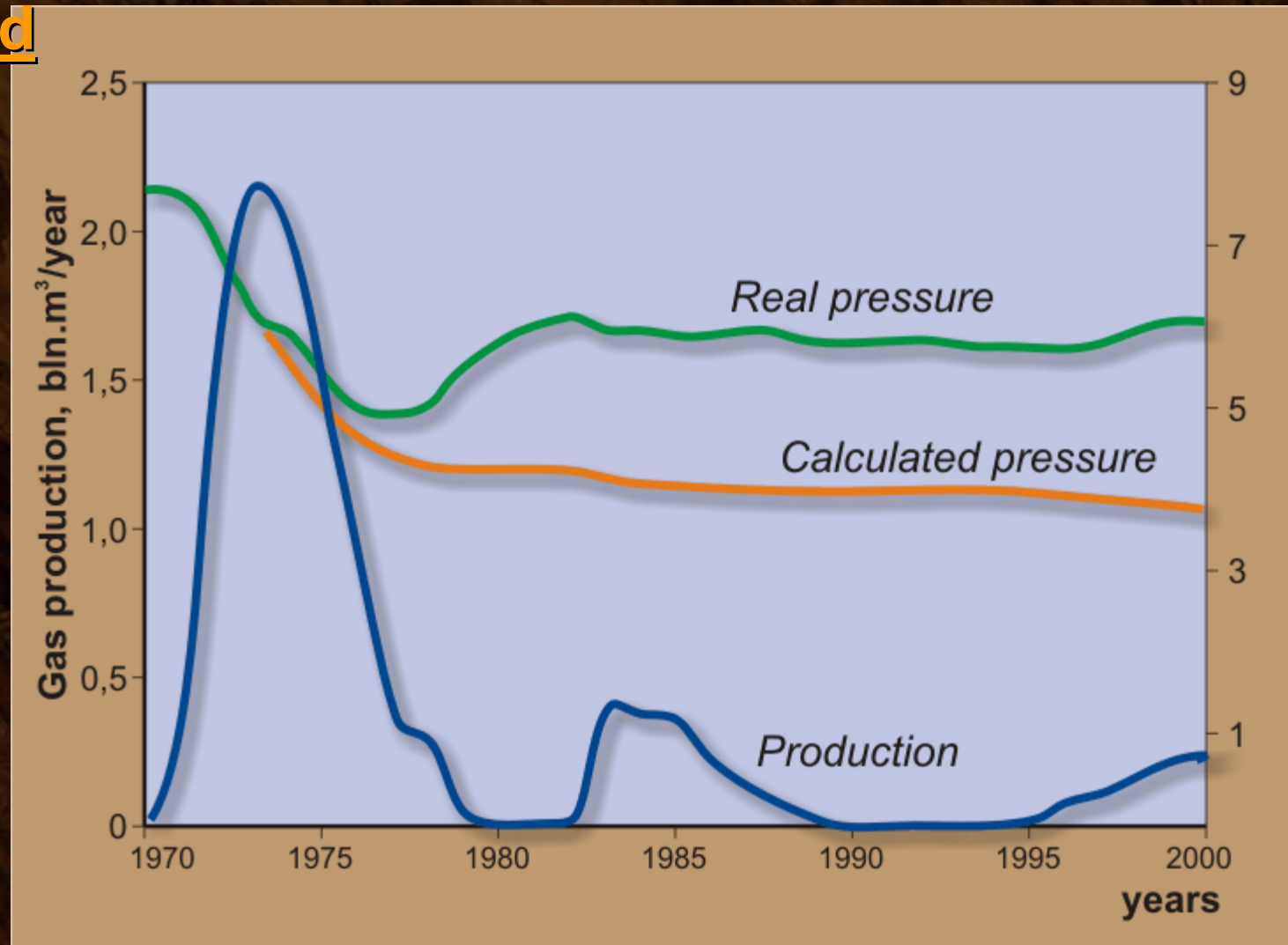
Messoyakha gas-and-gas hydrate field

Hydrate saturation of the porous space is from **20 to 40%**. On the 1st of January 2001 the accumulated rate production of gas from the deposit accounted for **11.6 bln.m³** out of which **5.7 bln.m³** were produced as the result of hydrate decomposition under conditions when reservoir pressure decreased below the equilibrium reservoir pressure.



2. Possible Methods of Development of Gas Hydrate Fields

Messoyakha gas-and-gas hydrate field



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Messoyakha gas-and-gas hydrate field

During 30 years the reservoir pressure decreased from **7.8 to 6.2 MPa.**

In the absence of hydrate the reservoir pressure was to be decreased up to **4 MPa.**



Mallik field (North-western territories, Canada)

Methane reserves trapped in hydrates is about **189 billion m³**(Collett 1999)

Hydrate stability line at the depth of **1100 m**

Permafrost thickness **640 m**



Mallik field (North-Western Territories, Canada)

Hydrate saturation is about 80%

Porosity ranges from 20 to 40%

Thickness of hydrate saturated formation 110 m



Nankai Trough (offshore Japan)



Total offshore hydrate reserves exceed **4.0-7.0 trillion m³**

Hydrate saturation up to **80%**

Porosity about **20-30%**



In 2001 at the Gubkin State
Russian University of Oil and Gas

THERMAL METHODS

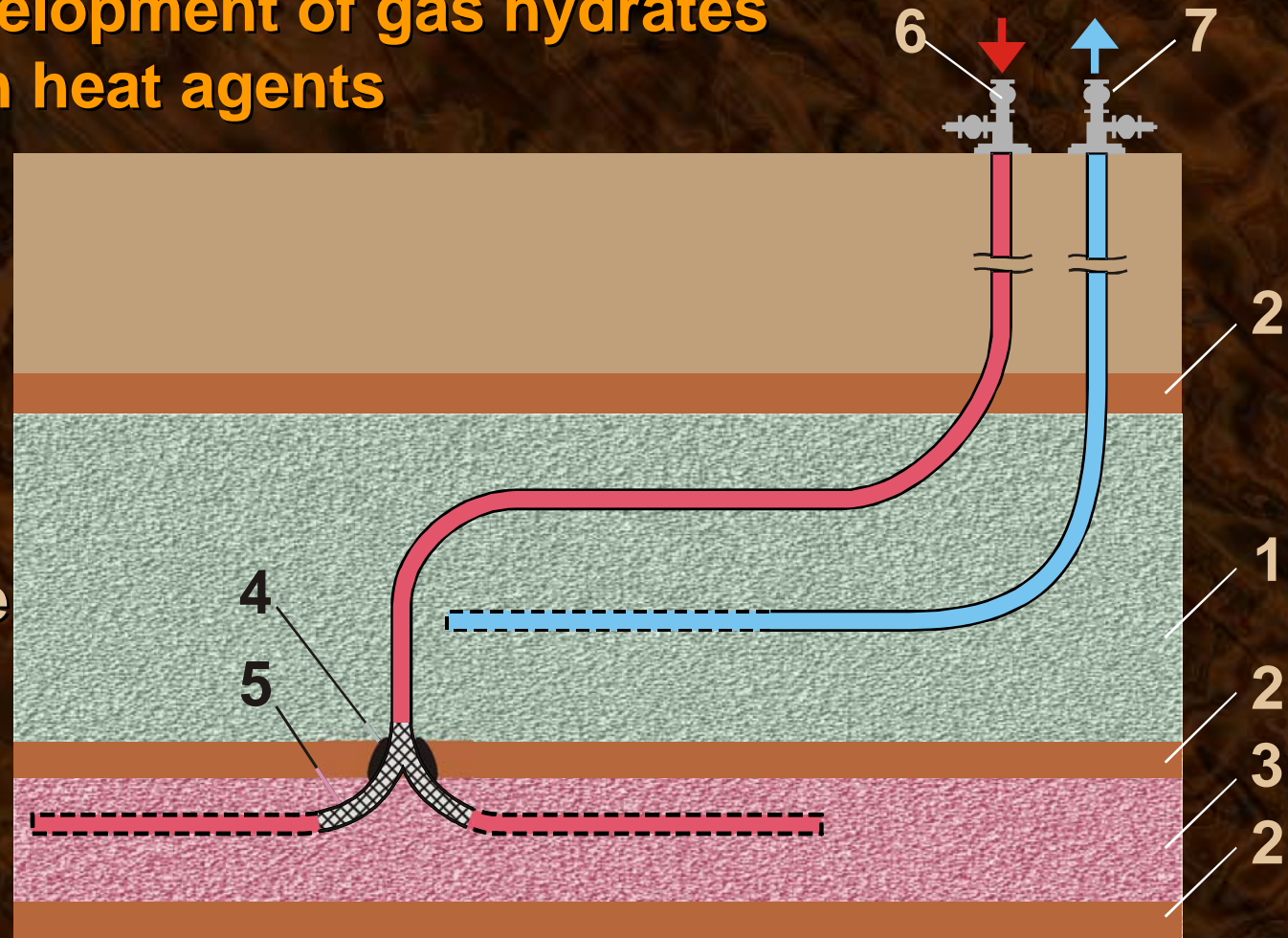
and technologies for recovering gas
from hydrates were suggested by
the Gas Production Department



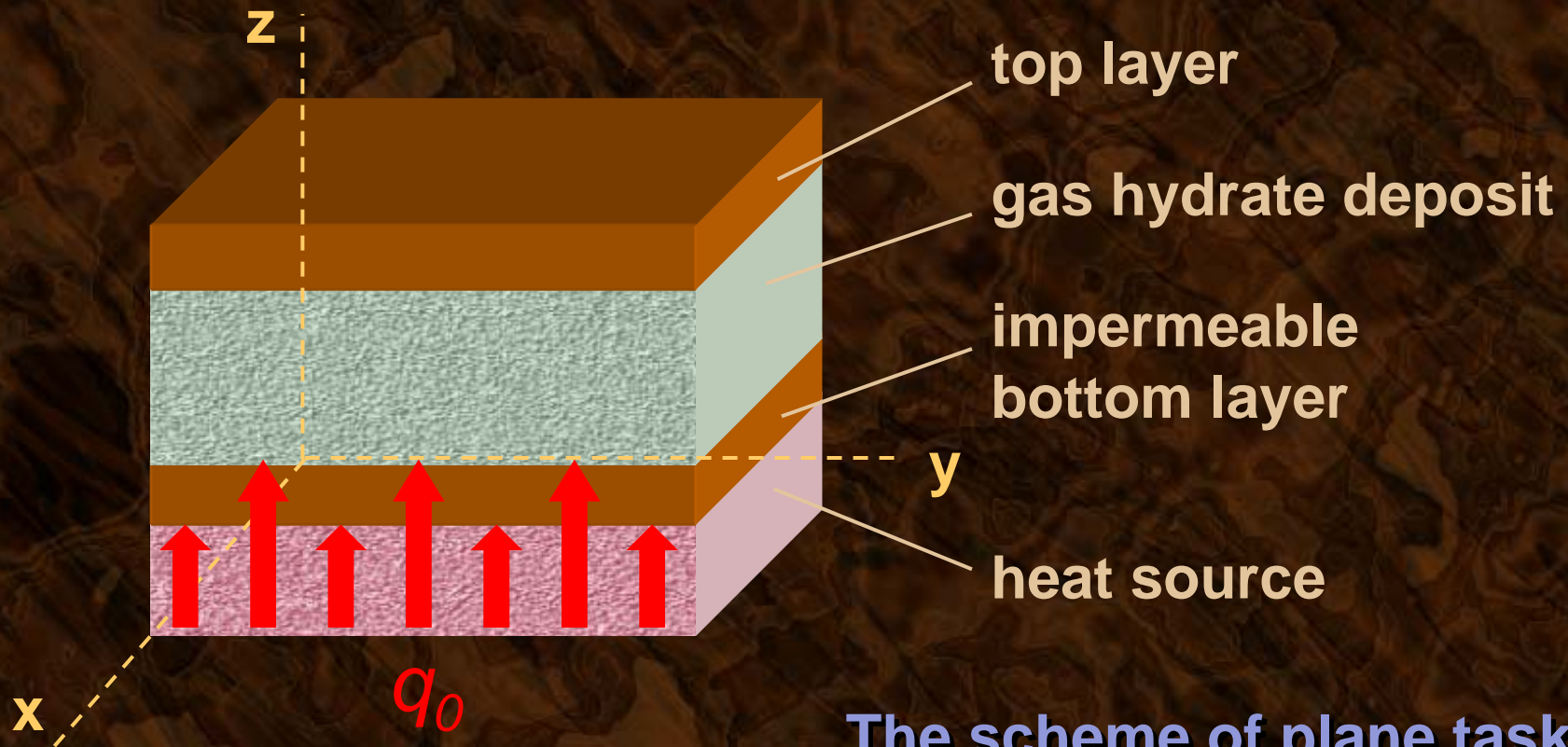
3. Essence of the method

Method of development of gas hydrates using injection heat agents

- 1 – gas hydrate deposit;
- 2 – impermeable layer;
- 3 – liquid heat agents;
- 4 – packer;
- 5 – cement bridge;
- 6 – injection well;
- 7 – production well.



Thermodynamic Tasks Of Gas Hydrate Decomposition Under Field Conditions



The scheme of plane task of gas hydrate decomposition in a formation



Essence of the thermal method consists of injecting liquid heat agents under the impermeable bottom of formation and creating conditions for effective heat transfer for solid gas hydrate decomposition.



Task Arrangement

Conservation of gas and water:

$$m \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \{ S_h (1 - \varepsilon) \rho_h + (1 - S_h)(1 - S_w) \rho_g \} + \operatorname{div} \rho_g v_g = 0$$

$$m \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \{ S_h \varepsilon \rho_h + (1 - S_h) S_w \rho_w \} + \operatorname{div} \rho_w v_w = 0$$

Conservation of energy:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho c \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + (\rho_w c_w v_w + \rho_g c_g v_g) \operatorname{grad} T = \\ = -v_w \operatorname{grad} p + m(1 - S_h)(1 - S_w) \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} + m \rho_h Q \frac{\partial S_h}{\partial t} + \operatorname{div} \lambda \operatorname{grad} T \end{aligned}$$

Darcy's equations for water and gas:

$$v_i = -\frac{k_i}{\mu_i} f_i(S_h, S_w) \operatorname{grad} p$$

Equation of state: $p = \rho_g RT$

Phase equilibrium equation:

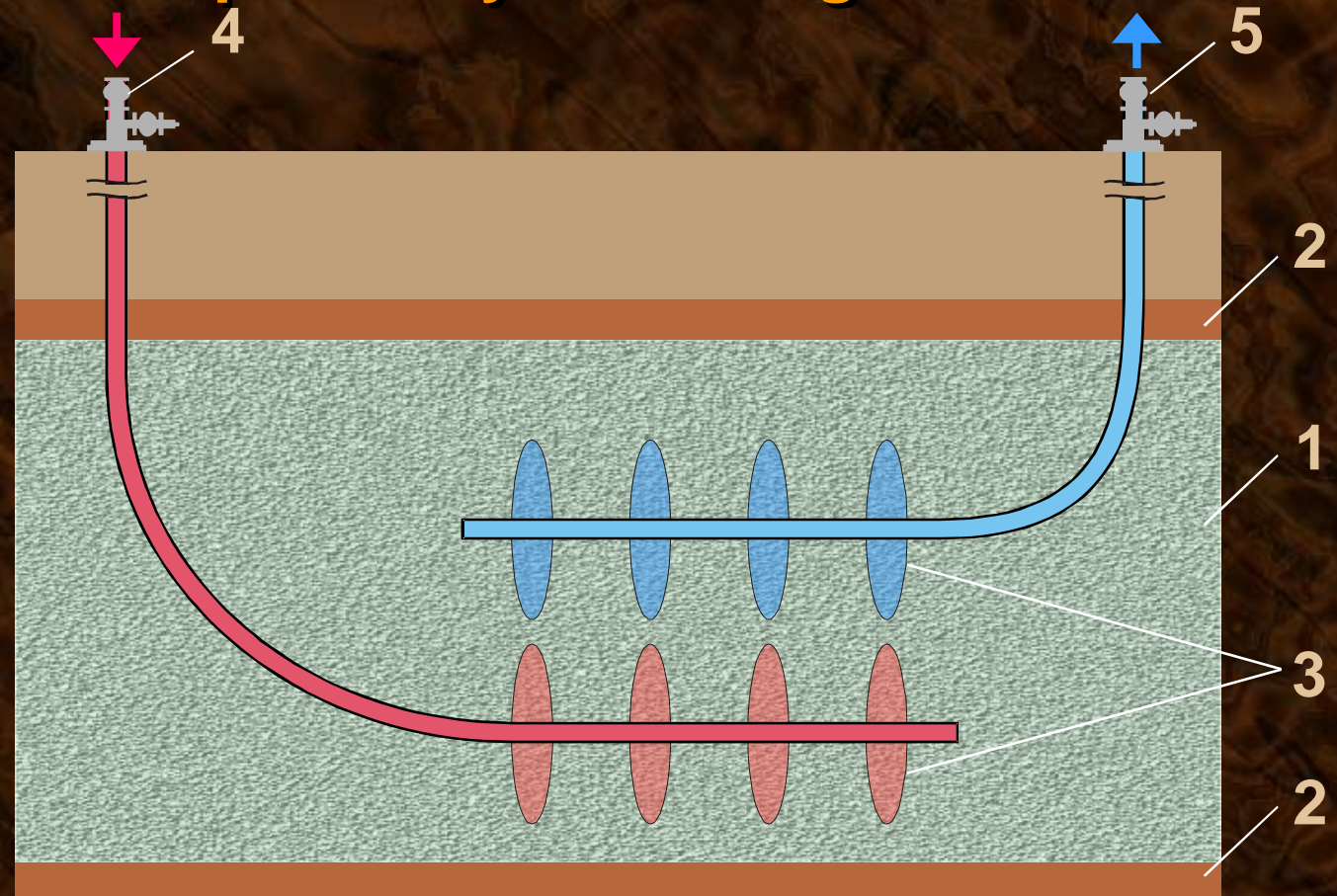
$$p(T) = p(0) \exp \frac{T - T(0)}{\alpha}$$



Heat and mass transfer can be increased by hydrofracturing. The system of horizontal wells designed for radioactive waste utilization, heated gas and hot water injection also facilitates this effect.



Hydrate field development by fracturing

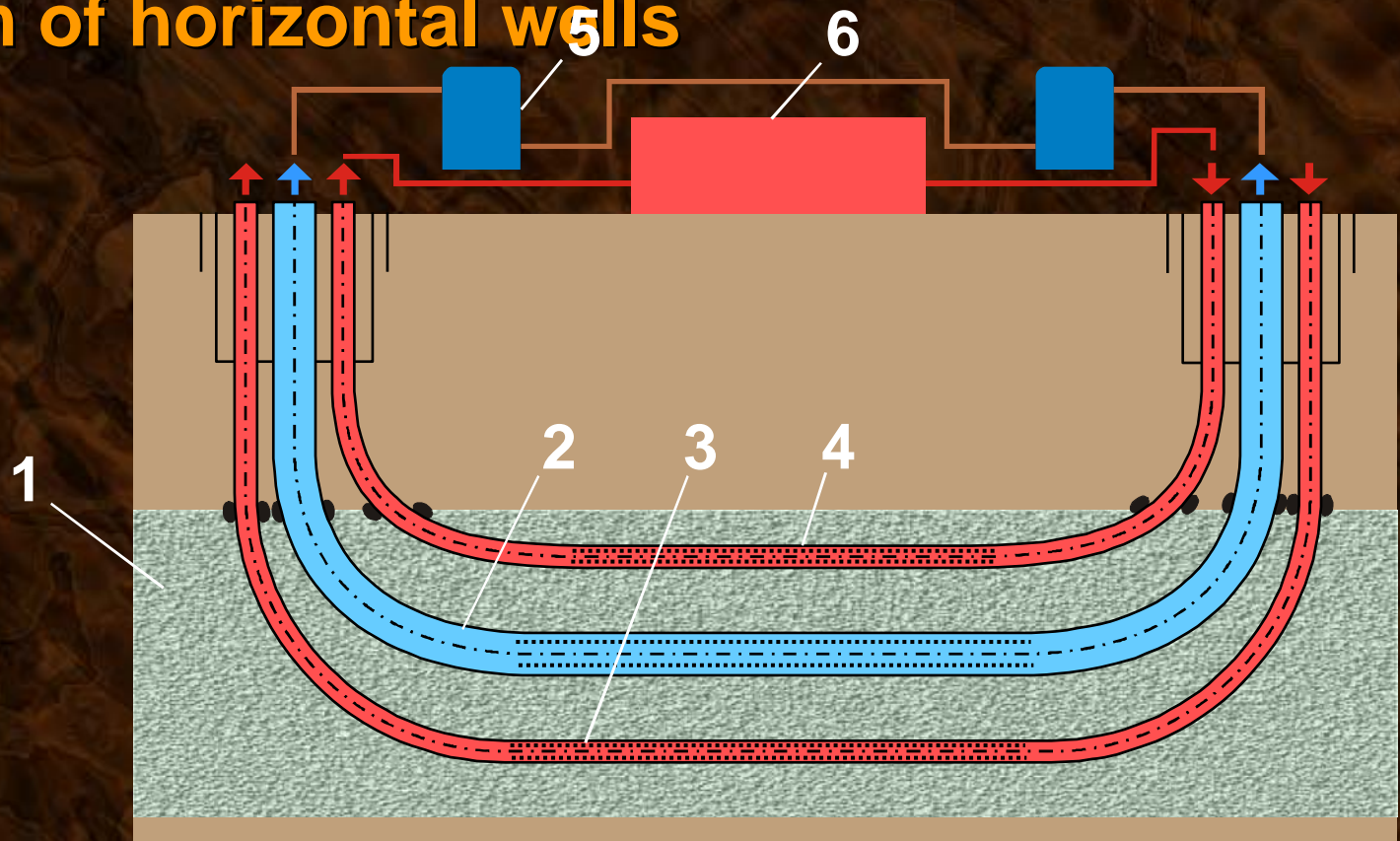


1 – gas hydrate deposit; 2 – impermeable layer;
3 – fracture; 4 – injection well; 5 – production well.



3. Essence of the method

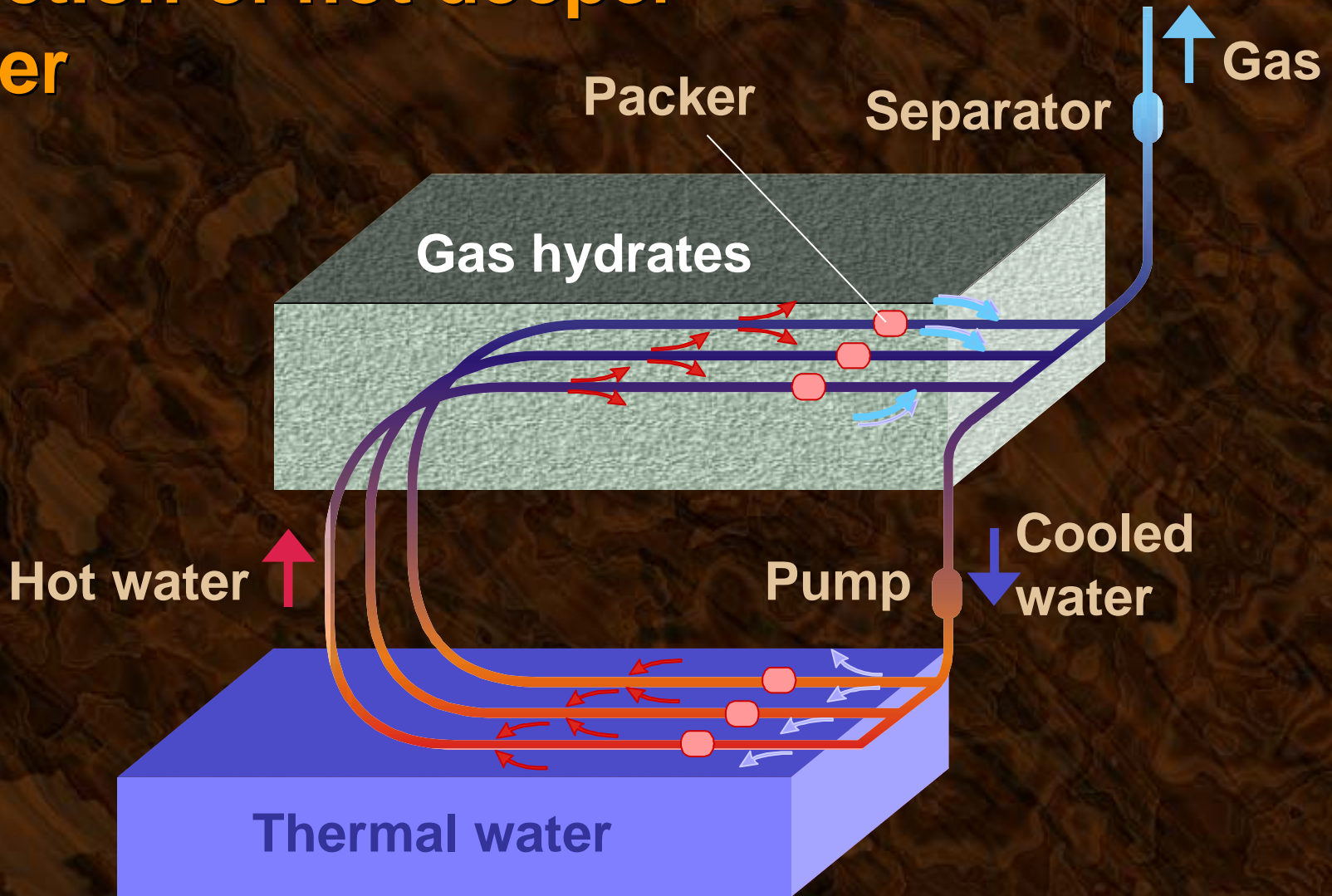
Method of hydrate field development by system of horizontal wells



1 - gas hydrate deposit; 2 - recovering trunk;
3, 4 - injecting horizontal trunks; 5 - equipment for gas recovery; 6 - equipment for injection of thermal agent



Injection of hot deeper water



The results were presented at XXII World Gas Conference (Tokyo, 2003), IGRC (Vancouver, 2004), Oil and Gas International Conference (Krakow, 2004) and many conferences and symposiums in Russia. The methods suggested were patented.



Thank you
谢谢



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